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(2) Control records of all working plans are being scrutinized by the Working Plans Conservator. This officer has recently issued a circular to all the other Conservators giving instructions for the preparation and checking of control returns, etc.

(c) The working plans circle was formed with the main object of doing away with the suggested procedure which had been in force for years with the results referred to in item (b) of the question.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" With reference to (b), may I enquire whether in former times, no regeneration or working plans were prepared at all in different circles? There are five circles and under each circle there are many districts."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" As far as I can say, yes."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I know whether the Chenat Nair Forest area worked on the working plan system?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Notice."

Working of the saw-mills under Government.

* 1705 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to place before the House a statement showing—

(a) the several saw-mills established by Government in the Forest department;

(b) what establishment is employed in connexion with each of the saw-mills and its cost per annum;

(c) what the estimates of receipts and expenditure are in connexion with each for 1928–29;

(d) what the profits and losses from a commercial point of view have been up to the close of the first six months of the year 1928–29; and

(e) whether it has been found more profitable by selling the timber from reserved forests to private individuals instead of sawing the timber at Government saw-mills?

A.—(a) The saw mills established by Government in the Forest Department are as follows :—

(1) Olavakkot Saw Mill, Chenat Nair Commercial concern.
(2) Beypore Saw Mill, Nilambur Commercial concern.
(3) Top Slip Saw Mill, Mount Stuart Commercial concern.
(4) Chedleth Saw Mill, Wynaad Division.
(5) Parappa Saw Mill, South Mangalore Division.

(b) The establishment employed in connexion with each of the saw mills and its annual cost is given in Annexure A [a].

(c) The estimates of receipts and expenditure in connexion with each for 1928–29 are furnished in Annexure B [a].

(d) The audit reports for the first half of 1928–29 have not yet been received. These half-yearly reports do not, however, show the profit or loss as these are dealt with only at the end of the year in the annual audit reports.

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 82–85 infra.

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(e) A direct answer cannot be given as circumstances vary in each area, the experiments with the portable saw mills have been inaugurated with a view to finding the answer to this question and it cannot therefore be answered until these experiments are completed.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" With reference to the profit shown in the statement which is printed as appendix, may I enquire whether it is a fact that these profits are deficient in this way? The Forest department sells timber at a rate which is below the market price . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member is arguing the point."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know whether it is a fact that the profits are shown by the Forest department by selling the forest produce . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That is asking for an opinion."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" With reference to Annexure B of Appendix II stating that the expenditure is Rs. 27,900 and the receipt is Rs. 81,000, may I know whether that is the money realized by the sale of timber? I should like to know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether this money could not have been realized by selling timber to the local saw mill that is there, whether the Government would not have realized the same amount of money shown there as money accrued to the Government by the sale of timber that is cut by this saw mill, when the expenditure for cutting the timber comes to Rs. 27,900? Are the Government aware that there is a local mill that is prepared to buy this timber? May I know if the Government cannot sell the timber without cutting it, so that the Government can realize more money?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I am not able to follow my hon. Friend's question."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I know whether the hon. Member is aware that a private saw mill applied to the Government for help on condition that they would take over all the timber which the Government can send to it from the Government mills?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I am not aware, Sir."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire whether it is not a fact that the Forest department sells timber to the saw mills at the rate of about 10 annas per cubic foot, whereas they can get much more in the market, viz., Rs. 2-8-0?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No, Sir."

Alleged memorials from Forest Rangers for increase of pay.

*1706 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any action has been taken on the memorial submitted to the Government by forest rangers for increase of pay referred to in question No. 250 answered on 8th September 1928; and

(b) if so, what it is?

A.—(a) & (b) The matter is still under consideration.